

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03545 270254Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5977
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03545

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, US, FR
SUBJECT: APPEAL TO PRESIDENT BY SON OF RUDOLF HESS

REF: USBERLIN 581

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED BY TELEX FROM WOLF RUEDIGER
HESS A COPY OF A MESSAGE HE STATES HE HAS SENT TO THE
HEADS OF STATE OF THE FOUR POWERS RESPONSIBLE FOR
SPANDAU PRISON. THE MESSAGE URGES THAT RUDOLF HESS BE
REMOVED URGENTLY TO A CIVILIAN HOSPITAL.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF MESSAGE.

BEGIN TEXT:

ON MY ROUTINE MONTHLY VISIT IN THE ALLIED MILITARY
PRISON IN BERLIN-SPANDAU ON FEBRUARY 25, 1977, I WAS
INFORMED THAT MY FATHER, THE FORMER REICHS MINISTER
RUDOLF HESS, UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SEVERE PHYSICAL
AND SPIRITUAL TORMENT (QUALEN), HAD THREE DAYS
PREVIOUSLY, ON FEBRUARY 22, 1977, ATTEMPTED SUICIDE,
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WHICH IT WAS ONLY POSSIBLE TO PREVENT AT THE LAST
MOMENT.

THEREBY HAS A MARTYRDOM REACHED ITS TRAGIC CLIMAX,
WHICH MY FAMILY HAS REPEATEDLY WARNED OF IN NUMEROUS
APPEALS FOR MANY YEARS. AFTER AN UNPRECEDENTED
ISOLATION TORTURE (FOLTER) OF MORE THAN TEN YEARS

ADDED ON TO AN IMPRISONMENT UNINTERRUPTED SINCE 1941, THE EVENTS IN SPANDAU HAVE IN VIEW OF THE FAILURE OF ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE AGAIN MADE IT CLEAR WHAT INHUMAN (GRAUSAME) CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY HAVE FOR DECADES BEEN PERPETRATED AGAINST RUDOLF HESS.

DESPITE THIS DRAMATIC WORSENING OF THE SITUATION (ZUSPITZUNG) RUDOLF HESS IS AS BEFORE KEPT IN HIS MEAGER CELL. MEANWHILE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE PRISON ADMINISTRATION IMPOSE ADDITIONAL DISCRIMINATORY INCREASES IN THE PUNISHMENT.

THE FAMILY URGENTLY IMPORES YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY TO TRANSFER THE 82-YEAR-OLD MAN IMMEDIATELY TO A CIVILIAN HOSPITAL WHICH YOU TRUST, TO SECURE FOR HIM THE ASSISTANCE OF A GERMAN SPECIALIST AND OF HIS COUNSEL, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO RESOLVE THE IMMEDIATE END OF THE IMPRISONMENT.

END TEXT.

3. IF DEPARTMENT IS QUERIED ABOUT HESS' TELEGRAM TO THE PRESIDENT, WE RECOMMEND CONTINUED REFUSAL TO COMMENT ON EVENTS INSIDE THE PRISON. DESPITE THE FACT THAT HESS JUNIOR HAS DECIDED TO RISK THE IRE OF THE SOVIETS BY GOING PUBLIC, WE SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY ONE OF THE THREE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWING THE SAME COURSE.

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4. AS FOR THE APPEAL FOR TRANSFER TO A CIVILIAN HOSPITAL, WE RECOMMEND THAT US SPOKESMEN RECALL THAT THE U.S., UK, AND FRANCE HAVE FREQUENTLY URGED THE SOVIETS TO AGREE THAT HESS BE RELEASED FROM PRISON FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 27-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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